

# THE SHAKERITE

March 26, 2013 // Volume 83 // Issue 8

STATE CHAMPS ISSUE

IMPACT ACTION  
FOR OVER 30 TOYOTA OFFERS  
buyatoyota

For over 30 Toyota offers  
buyatoyota

## RAIDERS BACK ON TOP

Pages 8 and 9

ANDREW BOYLE/THE SHAKERITE

Superintendent Search 4

College Alternatives 10

Balancing Clubs 14



# More Wildlife Calling Shaker Heights Home



ANDREW BOYLE/THE SHAKERITE

The Shaker Country Club is home to many coyotes in Shaker Heights according to Shaker Heights Animal Warden Steve Suder. Coyotes can thrive in most environments.



ANDREW BOYLE/THE SHAKERITE

Bird feeders, shrubbery and grass are a part of the typical diet of deer in Shaker Heights. Deer tend to thrive in areas like Shaker because their food supply is plentiful.

Coyotes can be heard howling at night, deer roam streets all hours of the day as animals take up residence among manicured lawns, country clubs

CLARA MEDALIE CAMPUS AND CITY

Wildlife is anything but decreasing as more and more creatures find homes in the parks, country club and lawns of Shaker Heights.

Coyotes are known to walk the streets of Shaker throughout the night, howling away. Having taken residence at the Shaker Heights Country Club golf course, they roam from South Park Road to Warrensville Center Road, according to Shaker Heights Animal Warden Steve Suder. However, any given night these coyotes can travel up to 30 miles from their den, which is why their howls have been heard all around Shaker.

Coyotes are most active in the late hours of the night and early morning. They occasionally venture out during the day. Shaker resident Antonia Reimer lives across the street from Southerly Park and witnessed a coyote cross her lawn in broad daylight. "I couldn't recognize what it was -- it looked like a small dog, tail between its legs," she said. Reimer called animal control, and they told her that it was most likely a coyote. Animal control instructed her to check her shed to see if the coyotes were making a den there.

Coyotes are not dangerous to humans but can be harmful to animals smaller than they. Suder said there have been reports of pets being killed around Shaker due to the coyotes.

"A lot of times the coyotes are not looking for any confrontation. The pet initiates it, and the coyotes will defend themselves," Suder said.

If someone happens to come across a coyote, Suder said the best thing to do is scare them. "Coyotes are used to humans," he said. "We need to be more aggressive." Suder said that the best thing to do is make very loud noises.

Currently the population of deer in Ohio is at an all-time high, according to Suder. Back in October, Shaker City Council had to call a special meeting to address the problem of too many deer. The outcome was that Shaker won't rule out some lethal measures of deer control. However, Shaker residents are not allowed to hunt them. Two approaches Shaker is not allowed to take are contraception and "trap-and-release" because both are illegal in Ohio.

"There's no carrying capacity," Suder said about urban areas such as Shaker Heights because there are endless amounts of food. That is why so many animals find their homes here such as raccoons, opossums and skunks. Bird feeders, grass, garbage and a variety of other urban food sources are what keep the wild animals coming back for more. "If they can have an easy buffet and free housing, why leave the area?" Suder said.

Typically, an animal's first offensive reaction is to bite. Sustaining a bite would require rabies treatment and could produce sickness. Suder said generally, "Any wild animal: give them space."

## COYOTE FACTS



1 Coyotes can weigh from 22 to 45 pounds

2 Predominantly brownish gray in color

3 Can exist in virtually any type of habitat

4 Can kill more than one animal in a single attack

5 Can survive and flourish in the presence of humans

## THE WILD ANIMALS IN SHAKER HEIGHTS

## RACCOON FACTS



1 Can weigh from 10 to 25 POUNDS

2 Raccoons can cause PHYSICAL DAMAGE to homes and buildings

3 Raccoons are very SMART ANIMALS and can get into ALMOST ANYTHING

## DEER FACTS



1 In Shaker Heights, there can be from 100-300 DEER at any given point in time currently there are 100-150 DEER

2 There are MORE DEER in Ohio than ever before

3 Deer in Shaker have a home range of ONE MILE



# Retiring Teachers Fond of Their Shaker Years

## Charles Longo: Former Shaker student enjoyed classroom

Social Studies Department Chair Charles Longo had quite the Shaker experience. Longo has taught in Shaker for 34 years, was head baseball coach for 19 years and attended Shaker as a student.

"I'm one of the lucky ones. I've enjoyed the classroom for 35 years," Longo said. When he received his teacher's license, he spent a year teaching at Avon Lake. However, he received a call from Shaker's personnel director asking him to teach at Shaker. That's when his amazing Shaker experience started again.

Why call an end to the Shaker experience? "I want to go out on top. I want to retire from Shaker loving Shaker," he said. Longo's immediate retirement plans are to purchase a house in Sarasota, Florida, where he will go to the beach, walk his dog, play golf and bike a lot. Once he starts losing track of the days, "Maybe I'll think about getting a part-time job," he said.

Longo also plans to travel around the world, and said he would like to visit South America and Antarctica. He said, "I want to see the penguins."



CLARA MEDALIE/THE SHAKERITE



CLARA MEDALIE/THE SHAKERITE

## Leslie Foote: Decision to retire hard to make, loves school

Spanish teacher Leslie Foote's love for Shaker is immense. Foote is retiring this year after 35 years of teaching, a difficult decision because he loves teaching at Shaker so much. However, "There comes a time in everybody's life where it's natural to move on," he said.

"Shaker is the best thing that happened to me," said Foote. Foote had nothing but good things to say about his experience at Shaker, and described his teaching career as "more than a job." Foote said when he leaves he will primarily miss the people. "The students are fantastic—my colleagues are just amazing," he said. Foote said through the years there has been great support from the community for his Spanish program.

According to Foote, the last thing he wants to say when leaving is, "Thank you." They are "cliché but true," he said.

Foote plans to be busy during retirement. He has three grown kids and wants to spend a time with his family. Foote also wants to travel.

## Kenneth Culek: Science teacher will keep busy after Shaker

Kenneth Culek, who is currently in his 35th year teaching, retire at the year's end. He said the thing he will miss most about teaching is the classroom itself.

He formerly taught at a junior high in Cleveland Heights and then smoothly transferred to Shaker, which was similar at the time. He had completed his student teaching at Shaker and was already familiar with the system upon his arrival.

Asked about the highlights of his career, Culek said one event stood out. "A few years ago, I got to go to Washington, D.C. because a student of mine was a Presidential Scholar and elected to bring me. That's definitely the highlight," Culek said.

Culek has plans for the years following his retirement. "Actually, I bought a trailer. We're going to go out west and do some camping," Culek said. "I also have a woodshop at home. I want to learn how to make good furniture. I'll have no problem keeping busy," he said.

Asked what his last words will be when walking out the door, Culek was quick to answer.

He said, "My words? I did my best."



EVAN DUBAIL/THE SHAKERITE



EVAN DUBAIL/THE SHAKERITE

## Gene Zajac: Will miss colleagues, students after 41 years

Gene Zajac, who has taught in the Shaker school district for 41 years, is the well-known astronomy teacher whom many students remember from field trips to the planetarium during elementary school.

Some of Zajac's fondest Shaker memories are camping trips with sixth-grade students, as well as the entertaining questions from young students in the planetarium.

Asked what he will miss the most about Shaker, Zajac said, "The people I work with here, the elementary school teachers and the colleagues, are fantastic. I have some wonderful friends that I've made that I will continue to see." Zajac said he will also miss all of the students. "It's so great when you students come back. I can't always remember the names... but I may remember where you sat, or stories about you."

In the years following his retirement, Zajac plans to spend time fishing and gardening while living with his wife in the house he has redone on Put-In-Bay. He also has four grandchildren that he is excited to spend more time with.

# State of Shaker Schools Discussed at Yearly Speech

## Superintendent Mark Freeman praised district's successes in areas of achievement, financial stability and future plans

CLARA MEDALIE CAMPUS AND CITY

"We're doing pretty well," Superintendent Mark Freeman said at his State of the Schools speech March 12.

Approximately 50 people attended the speech, held in the Upper Cafeteria and reinstituted last year, according to Director of Communications Peggy Caldwell.

Every year, a State of the Schools report is issued and available online at shaker.org. The yearly report provides an overview of the district's initiatives, student achievement, fiscal accountability and strategic direction for the future. "I'm roughly going to go along

with this," Freeman said while holding the report in hand. In his speech, Freeman covered the topics of remedial students, the band trip, teacher evaluations, healthcare, district finance, personalized learning, WiFi and charter schools. Freeman then answered some questions.

On the topic of health care, Freeman said Shaker should provide basic health clinics for students in schools because schools are the student activity hub. "They're the important people. They're the consumer. They're the client," he said.

Freeman also explained the use of bond money in the district. He said that the district used bond money, which is designated for uses such as facility upgrades and maintenance, to replace all the district's light bulbs with those that use half as much electricity and burn longer and brighter.

Freeman mentioned teacher evaluations in his speech. "There are all kinds of requirements of evaluating teachers that are unrealistic and impossible. But the idea is still good," he said.

The 2013 State of the Schools report mentions that the district has continually cut its budget and saved costs, allowing for spending such as a high school stadium upgrade. However, class sizes have increased greatly this year, especially English class sizes. After his speech, Freeman was asked whether with any budget surpluses, new English teachers would be hired.

"Some class size has grown, and we have made some reductions," Freeman said. He said that to reduce class size, teachers could teach five or six classes a day. However Freeman did not mention that doing so would reduce teachers' planning and grading time and would not reduce teachers' student load overall.



# Superintendent Search Continues; Candidates Speak

SARAH-JANE LORENZO EDITOR IN CHIEF

Although not members of a professional search firm, students who met with the three final candidates for superintendent offered plenty of frank assessments.

In large public meetings March 13-14, community members had a chance to form their opinions of the candidates as they introduced themselves and answered questions in the Upper Cafeteria. Shortly before these meetings, a small group of students sat in a circle in the Senior Lounge and spoke with each candidate.



Maggie Steinburg



Louie Seguin

"I thought they were very open to ideas, which was good," said junior Maggie Steinburg, who attended the meetings with Alexandria City School Director of PreK-12 Initiatives Gregory Hutchings and Mequon-Thiensville City School District Superintendent Demond Means.

Steinburg thought both candidates seemed very enthusiastic, but, she said, "I didn't think Means really had the confidence you needed for a superintendent."

"I think he had good ideas but he didn't have the leadership qualities to execute them," Steinburg preferred Hutchings. "I thought he was very direct and knew what he wanted to do with Shaker," she said.

Sophomore August Whitley attended all three meetings. Of all the candidates, Whitley agreed that

## Superintendent Candidate Demond A. Means Announces His Withdrawal From Consideration

JOHN VODREY STAFF REPORTER

One of the three final candidates for superintendent of Shaker schools, Dr. Demond A. Means, has withdrawn his name from consideration.

Means informed the Mequon-Thiensville Board of Education of his decision Sunday, March 17. The district's website released a press statement March 18.

Means' withdrawal follows the M-T board's efforts to keep him at the helm of the district, located outside of Milwaukee, WI.

The M-T board released a statement March 15 which said, "The Board has been actively engaged, working on behalf of the best interests of the Mequon-Thiensville School District. Toward that end, board members met face to face with Dr. Means to express their sup-

port of his leadership."

In addition to announcing Means' decision to remain M-T superintendent, the statement released today said, "The Board had voted unanimously on Tuesday, March 13 to clearly state its support for Dr. Means' leadership and its interest in having him continue as the district's superintendent due to his excellent leadership and capabilities. The full board made this statement to Dr. Means in person on Wednesday morning. He has been a strong leader who has been critical to the success of the district in the past and is essential to the organization's future...The Board of Education is thrilled that he will stay in Mequon-Thiensville, and we look forward to working with him to advance in the best interests of our schools, students and community."

The two remaining superintendent candidates are Dr. David A. Bowlin of Westlake and Dr. Gregory C. Hutchings of Alexandria, VA.

The Shaker Heights Board of Education posted a statement March 18 reporting that it reached a consensus on its choice for the next superintendent.

According to the statement, the candidate's name will be announced as soon as details have been verified and finalized.

Board President Annette Tucker Sutherland said that before the announcement two members of the board will visit the selected candidate's current workplace to talk to the candidate's colleagues. The board will then conduct contract negotiations with this candidate. Sutherland said that she was aiming for an announcement April 9.

Hutchings was the best fit for Shaker. "The other guys were more big-business guys," he said. Whitley described David Bowlin, The Center for Learning's director of curriculum and professional development, as qualified but too serious and a "big dog kind of guy." Means, he said, spoke little about himself.

Like Steinburg, sophomore Louie Seguin only attended the meetings with Means and Hutchings. However, Seguin preferred Means. "I thought Dr.

Hutchings was very young and he seemed very enthusiastic," he said. "I thought his ideas were maybe not as plausible, not as realistic as Dr. Means." Seguin said from what he's heard about Bowlin, the candidate "wasn't memorable," and said that between Bowlin and Hutchings, he thinks Hutchings is a better option. But, he said, "Clearly if they've made it so far, they all have the potential to be successful as superintendent."

## Highlights From Candidate Appearances

Candidates appeared before community members March 13, 14 and 15 in the high school's Upper Cafeteria to speak about their backgrounds, experience and what they would bring to Shaker.

A moderator posed questions submitted by the audience via notecards and by community members at the district's website. Audiences for the appearances ranged from approximately 100 to 150 and comprised mostly teachers and community members.

Among other things, each candidate was asked about his opinion of the Advanced Placement and International Baccalaureate programs, willingness to create budget plans, experience with diversity, how he would confront the achievement and opportunity gaps and his leadership styles.

To read the full stories on each candidate's appearance and further coverage of the superintendent search, visit shakerite.com.



Gregory Hutchings

Director of PreK-12 Initiatives,  
Alexandria City Public Schools  
Alexandria, Virginia

- Said that if chosen as superintendent, his two children would attend Shaker schools
- Stressed the need for non-instructional cuts to maintain academic excellence
- Initial priorities would be improving the quality of education at the middle school, ensuring all schools are IB authorized, getting to know the community and visiting schools and sitting in on every class
- Said IB was "definitely the right way to go" because it gives students more control over their education
- Said district should provide "wrap-around services" to under-performing students in low-income families. "There needs to be social workers and psychologists and therapeutic services and counseling"



David Bowlin

Director of Curriculum and Professional  
Development, The Center for Learning  
Westlake, Ohio

- Said he has "intense business acumen"
- Said he knows how to make difficult but necessary spending cuts
- Said safe schools would be a top priority
- Emphasized innovative teaching, collaboration, the idea of community and the "visibility of the superintendent"
- Would examine district's finances to try to reduce the frequency of levies
- Described his previous relationships with unions and teachers' associations as "very good ones"
- Said he likes the interconnectedness of the International Baccalaureate program
- Spoke highly of Advanced Placement classes, said they have "a ton of merit"
- Described his experience with diversity as "always a positive, never a negative"

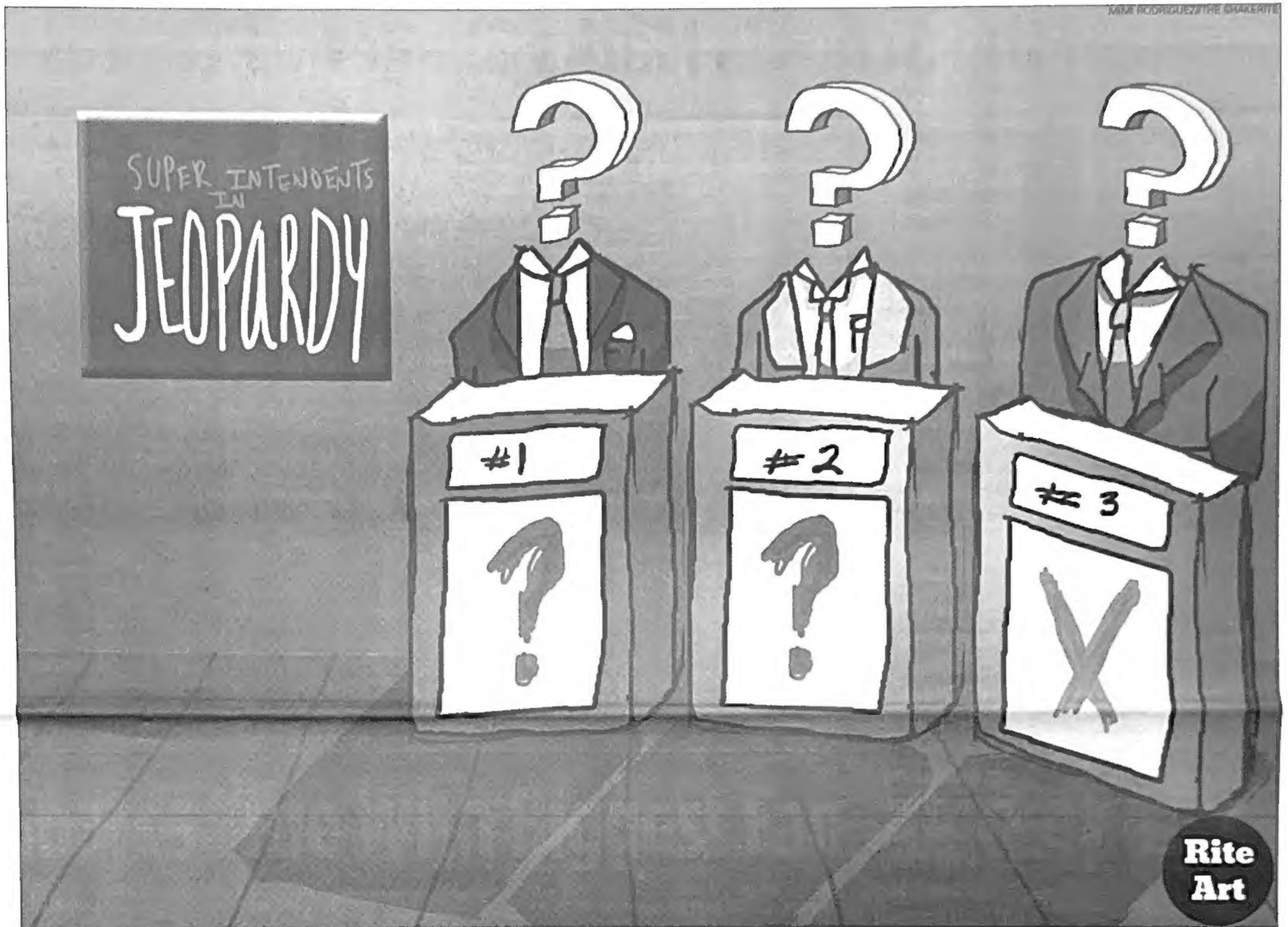


Demond Means

Superintendent, Mequon-Thiensville School  
District, Mequon, Wisconsin

- Said he was drawn to Shaker by the district's "high quality of life," diversity, innovation and commitment to IB
- Said, "Your commitment to IB is very impressive." Believes AP and IB can coexist
- Despite a "very fiscally challenging environment" Mequon-Thiensville students have achieved a high average ACT score and improving state assessment score
- Has made budget cuts but "maintained excellence of our fine arts"
- Would address the achievement gap by being transparent, setting goals and monitoring results
- Said he likes to coach, not direct. "I believe in helping people reach their own conclusions versus telling them where to go and directing"





## New Leader Must Put These Items Atop List

**D**uring each superintendent candidate's public speech, questions circled around to the same topics. How would the candidate address the achievement gap and financial difficulties? What are their feelings about AP and IB? How about football?

The breadth of topics the chosen candidate will be expected to effectively address will make the new superintendent's position a difficult one, regardless of who takes the job. Although all of the issues mentioned at the public speeches deserve attention, The Shakerite has identified challenges we hope the new superintendent will address immediately.

### Rite Idea

Since an article in The Shakerite shed light on the issue in 1997, the racial and socioeconomic achievement gap has been a significant concern in the minds of many Shaker residents. Schools district-wide have implemented programs and techniques over the years in attempt to eradicate the gap, but its prevalence is still evident in student grades and test scores. The achievement gap has been present in our community for too long. We hope the new superin-

tendent will be dedicated to finding a way to increase resources, support and parental involvement for students the gap affects.

As financial concerns become more prominent, it is crucial that the new superintendent remain willing to work with students and teachers to find the most equitable and constructive ways to solve budget issues. In recent years, budget decisions have limited the number of teachers who are replaced after their retirement or departure from the high school, which has led to increased class sizes and reduced elective course offerings. Although Shaker continues to provide students with excellent education, the decreasing number of electives has limited students' opportunities to enroll in classes designed and taught by teachers who are particularly passionate about the subject. These cuts have also increased class sizes and taken more teachers to the contractual maximum student load, limiting the time teachers can spend with individual students and assessing individual work. Such limitations are directly detrimental to student-teacher relationships, which are essential to school and should be preserved at all costs.

Middle school students are growing and experiencing significant social, intellectual and emotional changes. These changes can lead to bullying, which increases student stress and is a distraction from school. Middle school students are promoted to the high school no matter how many courses they pass or fail. Such social promotion can leave students unprepared for the demands of high school courses, and because of this, many freshmen start high school on the wrong foot. No matter who the new superintendent is, he must address this issue directly. He should seriously consider an alternative school or supplementary route for middle school students who are not performing at grade level. They must be given the help they need to be on track to succeed by the time they begin high school.

The candidates addressed these weighty issues in some form during their speeches. However, students were left to wonder what these prospective leaders would do on particularly cold and snowy winter days. We hope the new superintendent will also acknowledge the power of the lake effect and make Shaker a leader in snow days as well.



# State of the Schools Marks Shaker's Progress

**P**rops to the district for what it has accomplished. Shaker has managed to continue to excel in academics while continuing the district's financial stability. Superintendent Mark Freeman gave his final State of the Schools presentation March 12 in the upper cafeteria. Approximately 50 students, teachers and community members attended the speech, during which Freeman explained what the schools have accomplished in the past year.



Leo Izen  
Copy Editor

Freeman said Shaker has continued its academic success and fiscal stewardship. And he was right. Freeman said the district's academic achievement is evident even though Shaker doesn't perform as highly on state-administered tests. Freeman cited the district's SAT scores and percentage of students taking the SAT. "If you look at that, and study it, you'll see Shaker very much near the top," Freeman said. "It's important to look at this." Many Shaker 2012 graduates went to great colleges, including all the Ivy League schools. "You can measure schools by their output," Freeman said, explaining the district's excellent college admissions. Shaker also captured success in numerous competitions such as the Scholastic Art Competition, the Ohio High School and Middle School Chess Championships and the National Latin Exam.

Freeman acknowledged that there exists an achievement gap, but not due to putting students in lower classes than appropriate. Freeman said other

school systems employ the "Oh, we don't think you're ready for honors or AP classes," philosophy. At Shaker, "We thought that was a barrier," he said. The district also has continued to put forward its Strategic Plan. Shaker has accomplished many elements of the plan, such as surveys and community outreach, and many are in the works if not already done. Some criteria, however, have not been accomplished by a long shot. This is possibly because Shaker is where it needs to be and the criteria are overly optimistic.

According to senior project adviser James Schmidt, the district's Strategic Plan goal is that 100 percent of eligible seniors participate in project. "That's just not reasonable," Schmidt said. Schmidt said there are some seniors who adamantly won't go on project. He said a better requirement would be for 100 percent of seniors who want to participate to go on project, because he can enable options for seniors who are willing to do project but otherwise unable to plan it out. Shaker has maintained financial stability despite declining housing values. The district's excellent bond ratings from Moody's and Standard and Poor's have allowed Shaker to borrow money to install energy-saving lights, using the saved electricity costs to pay the loans back. This will save the district energy costs in the long run and benefit the environment.

Shaker has balanced its food service budget, which had been in deficit for years. The district also recently installed a new track and turf field at the high school, which cost \$2 million, but the district has managed to end with a \$2.3 million surplus in 2012, allowing the district to push the school levy back another year. According to Freeman, the surplus can't



LEO IZEN/THE SHAKERITE

be used to hire more teachers as the administration reserves it for unexpected expenditures, such as providing generators for blackouts such as the ones on March 18 and Oct. 15, 2012. Freeman, who will retire at the school year's end after serving 25 years as superintendent, said, "Overall, we're doing pretty well."

## Monday Morning Isn't Necessary

**M**y alarm sounds. Macklemore's hit single "Can't Hold Us" blares into my left ear. Barely awake, I fade in and out of consciousness, bracing myself for another week. My mom tells me it's time to get up. "Mom, please, just let me sleep!"



Hannah Heverding  
Opinion Editor

Goodbye weekend, hello Monday, the most grueling day of the week. Any high school student would agree without hesitation that Monday's indeed the worst. Yeah, yeah, they are preparing us for the Real World, when we'll be required to go to work five or six days a week, but would extending our weekends by one day really hurt?

According to RegisterGuard.com, there are already many rural districts that have adopted the four-day week plan, such as the Oakridge School District in Oregon. Sixty-four other districts have also made the change. So should we. Mondays are absolutely ghastly. Beginning the school week with a late-start Tuesday would eliminate the endless Monday struggles. There would have to be some way for the teachers to deliver the curriculum in four days rather than

five, but hey, nothing is impossible. Shortening the school week to four days would require students to be present and focused in school more often. But let's be real, that's not going to happen. First-world problems in the life of a high-schooler; they never end.

## Connecting Too Much to the Movies

**M**ovies are designed to make you love the leading characters. But when the leads are portraying real life criminals, why does Hollywood have to create the emotional battle? Crime bosses have ethics. From the very beginning viewers are torn between loving the leading character and understanding their twisted ethics (usually based on loyalty) and hating their guts for being a criminal. It seems



Sarah Shaw  
Opinion Editor

strange, but these characters are driven by loyalty to their partners in crime. You can get just as attached to the criminals as you can to the leads in a sappy love story. And then the inevitable happens. The lead dies, gets shot or gets arrested. The filmmakers make you like unlikable characters, thus creating emotional distress for the viewer. If they're supposed to be unlikable people, portray them that way!

**Raider Rants**



SASHA RAE-GRANT/THE SHAKERITE



## Strongsville Strike Stirs Gratitude

If teachers went on strike, classes would halt, students would skip and clubs wouldn't meet. No college recommendation letters could be written, no conference periods would happen, no electives would be taught. Pandemonium would ensue in the school.



Sarah Shaw  
Opinion Editor

Imagine being in a school run entirely by substitute teachers. Many substitute teachers have limited control over classrooms; imagine if they had to control the building. Students wouldn't listen to long-term substitutes any more than one-class substitutes. It's not the substitutes' fault. Students don't value the authority of teachers who don't regularly teach their classes.

"Well I left school early. It was crazy!" wrote a Strongsville High School student who requested anonymity. "There are like 40 kids in a class and we only have core classes. The police were outside and the teachers have signs outside the property," the student wrote in a text message. The student also said teachers encouraged them to leave school. The police, however, told them that if they left, they could not return that day.

Strongsville teachers went on strike March 4. Instead of going to their classes, teachers formed picket lines outside the Strongsville schools. Substitutes filled in, but the district has so far only hired about 250 substitutes for 383 teachers. School administration decided to limit students' schedules to core classes to make school days more manageable for the remaining staff.

A strike doesn't seem imminent at Shaker, while in Strongsville tensions had been brewing because of contract negotiations. We are extremely lucky not to be in the same position as Strongsville. We have more classes available to us than we could possibly think to take. Meanwhile, at Strongsville High School seniors are approaching graduation with little meaningful instruction in few classes, raising questions about their credits and performance on Advanced Placement tests.

The Strongsville teachers have just reasons to strike. Years of salary freezes and benefit reductions changed the living standard for the teachers.

In Shaker we have it good. We don't have to cross a picket line to get to class and we have teachers trained in their respective subjects. True, our classes have more students than in past years, but we still have useful classes. We tend not to fully appreciate the education provided, but the Strongsville teachers' strike is a wakeup call to Shaker students, who should now really appreciate the opportunities we have.



SASHA RAE GRANT/THE SHAKERITE

## How Much do Students Need AP?

When it comes to college, it is good to be ahead of the game. But is it necessary?

Students are often advised to start preparing early, but as schools fight to boost their prestige and selectivity by appealing to more highly polished applicants, early becomes earlier and stressed students find themselves pressed to fit a formula for perfection.



Sarah-Jane Lorenzo  
Editor in Chief

When I entered middle school, the focus on work ethic and the road to higher education was presented to me with more emphasis than ever before. Students were swiftly sifted onto academic tracks according to their drive and proficiency in certain subjects. At multiple meetings for seventh graders, I was informed that the classes I took and grades I received would directly affect my options in high school and beyond. Like many of my friends, I enrolled in mostly honors classes, which led me to select more honors courses when I devised my ninth-grade schedule.

Over my four years in high school, I never took an AP class. I was confident that I could do AP work and respected AP and IB tracks, but chose a different path, challenging myself in other ways. This decision has never left me feeling disadvantaged or behind. These four years, I have committed to doing what I love. I have written extensively, studied Japanese and chosen courses

that interested and inspired me. In my spare time I socialize, swing dance, spend time with my little brothers and write long letters to friends. I have studied through late nights and early mornings, anxiously prepared for particularly daunting tests, and learned to study hard and adopt a proactive work ethic.

Credits earned from AP courses enable students to fulfill requirements, place into higher-level college courses and shorten their time in college, potentially saving thousands of dollars. The courses challenge students and prepare them for college work. While AP courses offer wonderful opportunities, they are one of many opportunities available. Just as there is a colorful and diverse array of colleges across the nation and around the globe, there are a wide variety of paths to college enrollment and academic success.

College is about education and self-discovery in conjunction with obtaining the personal and practical skills to become a productive, employed and contributing member of society. More than anything, the road to college is influenced by a student's desire to learn and take advantage of the ability to explore.

As my senior year nears its end and college admission letters slowly trickle in, I am comfortable and content with where I am and what I have accomplished. My GPA lacks the boost it would have received had I taken more 5.0 classes. I may have yet to take a college course. But ahead of me are four full years open to exploratory education through college courses I cannot wait to choose from.



# Hockey Wins State Championship

Seniors lead Raiders over Sylvania Northview to tally program's 4th title

ALEX SMITH RAIDERS ZONE EDITOR  
The hockey team won its fourth state title and first since 2001, overcoming underdog status to defeat defending state champion Sylvania Northview 3-1 March 9.

It was an emotional road to the state championship for the players as well as the fans. The Raiders defeated rival University School March 2 in double overtime to reach the final four then beat a hot Rocky River team 4-1 March 8 at Nationwide Arena in Columbus.

For senior defenseman Joey Yoder, Shaker's fourth state championship was "unreal."

"The state title is the best thing I could've wished for to finish off my high school career," said Yoder. "It's something I've dreamed of since freshman year."

For the first time since 1980, four public schools comprised the final four, with Shaker and Rocky River entering as underdogs. The Raiders dominated Rocky River en route to another dominant win against Sylvania Northview, a Toledo-area team.

The absence of Catholic and private schools from the final four was notable given the growing private/public divide in high school athletics. Schools such as St. Edward, St. Ignace and US are leaving the Greater Cleveland High School Hockey League to form their own eight-team, private school conference, the Great Lakes League, next year.

"I think everyone considered having a public final four a victory in itself," senior captain Jacob Shick said. "This proved that public schools can not only contend with private schools, but also play at a higher level than them."

As the team neared the final four, fans mobilized to support the Raiders. The Shaker hockey alumni organization chartered buses to transport students to Columbus, and parents, administrators and faculty helped create a strong presence at the arena.

"There's nothing better than having a lot of support," said Yoder. "... Every time someone would get the puck, the whole place filled with energy."

With a core of eight seniors, the Raiders believed from the start that this was their year. "They were the heart and soul of the team," Head Coach Michael Bartley said.

Yoder described the team as "his brothers," and it is that camaraderie that helped the Raiders learn their personal roles and stick to them.

"It is one of the main reasons we were so successful," said Shick. "Having that trust and connection with your teammates directly translates to better chemistry and performance."

Shick and fellow seniors Eric Sterin and Jonathan Greenberg were all first team all-league selections, and senior captain John Longman



Seniors John Longman and Joey Yoder celebrate their state championship victory. Shaker beat Sylvania Northview 3-1 March 9 at Nationwide Arena to win the OHSAA state hockey championship.

earned a third-team selection. Senior Connor Siwik was among the top scorers in the league.

However, Shaker had depth from first line to third, demonstrated by the third line's extraordinary showing against US, as seniors Trevor Carl and Yoder scored the Raiders' two goals.

This luxury along with the team's camaraderie and diligent attitude was a key to Shaker's performance en route to their fourth state championship.

"We knew if we played our best game we could beat any team in the state," Longman said. "We did it."

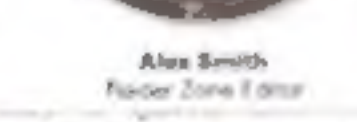


Senior Jacob Shick collides with a Sylvania Northview player during the Raiders' 3-1 state championship victory March 9 at Nationwide Arena in Columbus.

## Fan Support Could Bring More Trophies

Last year, the tradition of the Friday night Shaker hockey games was tarnished by turmoil off the ice. This news overshadowed the tradition, something that I always looked forward to coming into high school.

On Dec. 2, 2012, Shaker faced Lake Catholic in its home opener at Thornton Park. However, hockey wasn't the focus that night as police breath-tested students and arrested seven for underage drinking, stirring a controversy that led to moving up game times.



Alex Smith  
Raiders Zone Editor

In coverage of the event, forward Jacob Shick had a message for students.

"Your job is to be supportive of the team." The time change affected the players as well as the fans. As the season proceeded, attendance declined and the Shaker hockey team's performance was obscured by students' complaints.

When the hockey team won its fourth state championship March 9, the shadow over Shaker's love of hockey finally disappeared. Regardless of harmful social media exchanges between Rocky River and Shaker students, Shaker hockey was still the focus for the student body. It's a testament to these students that the drama stayed on social media and was resolved. Their restraint shows how much fans really do love Shaker hockey and all Shaker sports. It's heartening seeing a school unite the way Shaker does when at its full strength.

When I look back on high school, I won't remember the six-second Snapchats and useless Twitter drama. I'll remember that on March 9, 2013, the hockey team won a state championship, and that I was in the stands at Nationwide Arena, screaming until my head throbbed alongside my peers. I'll remember the wave of students rolling through the hallways in celebration as they exited the arena, and being mute for days because my voice hadn't recovered.

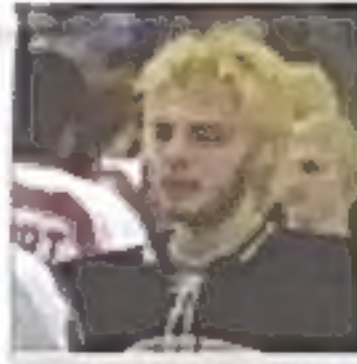
Many do not realize the impact that strong fan support has on a team. If all Shaker sports received as much attention as the hockey team did in their great title run, I'll bet that there would be more trophies in our trophy cases. As an athlete and a fan, I know that playing in front of a large crowd is not only motivating, but exhilarating. This state championship could be the beginning of the revival of Shaker spirit.

It's already been a welcome disruption to the previous tradition of outshining the hockey team with bad behavior.

## Emotions Abound on the Ice



Junior Emmett Sweeney kisses the state championship trophy. Shaker won their fourth state hockey championship, their first since 2001, when they beat reigning state champion Sylvania Northview March 9.



Sylvania Northview players cry after losing to Shaker Heights in the OHSAA state championship. Sylvania was the reigning champion, having beaten St. Edward last year, but lost to Shaker, 3-1, March 9 at Nationwide Arena.



The Shaker Hockey team celebrates its victory in the state championship game, March 9, after the final horn sounded. Players threw off their gloves and helmets and surrounded senior goalie Eric Stern when the game ended.

COMPILED BY  
ARI ROSS AND ALEX SMITH

## Raiders' Championship Moments



Senior Connor Siwik brings the puck up the ice against University School on May 1 in the Kent District. The Raiders beat US 2-1 in double overtime, to advance to the state final four in Columbus for the first time since 2005.



Senior Connor Siwik takes a shot against Rocky River in the state semi-final game March 8. Siwik scored one of Shaker's four goals and the Raiders beat the Pirates 4-2 to advance to the state championship game.



Senior John Longman knocks the puck into the net to put Shaker up, 2-1, against Sylvania Northview in the state championship game March 9. The Raiders scored again and stopped Sylvania Northview on a 5-on-3 power play with less than six minutes remaining to win the OHSAA Hockey State Championship.



# Does Success After High School Come Without College?

Students and teachers discuss the ups and downs of gap years and choosing not to attend college

ANNA O'CONNELL SPOTLIGHT EDITOR

**S**haker students are expected to do one thing after completing high school: go to college.

Few people question the belief that the fast track to success is through education. For most students, this is an accepted idea; they recognize that after four years of high school, the only option is to continue on to college.

"I think it's becoming much more of a standard that you have to go to college. But I don't think it's the only way you can be successful and I don't think it's for everyone," said history teacher Amanda Ahrens. "Our school and all schools, really, don't offer other options."

For some students this isn't the case, and they consider options from a wider spectrum of alternative choices. Students commonly choose to pursue ventures other than attending classes, including pursuing artistic dreams, joining the military, traveling the world and entering the work force.

Several seniors plan to pursue life outside of college. "I just don't feel the need to put myself in debt trying to train my skills as a writer. I don't think that the extreme costs of college are worth it for what I do," senior Hombre

Thomas said.

Thomas plans to inspire youth to change violent ways by traveling and speaking to groups of kids. "Even if I can't become super rich from this, I think my life would have more worth and I would be happier with this path," he said.

Rather than deciding to not attend college at all, more students will take a gap year – an interval during which people take a break from formal education and undertake activities.

Although the practice of taking a break is more uncommon in the United States than in other countries, numerous universities, including New York University, Amherst College, Princeton University and Harvard University have formal policies which allow and encourage students to defer admission and take time off.

Alex Wagner ('12) deferred enrolling in Cornell University for a year to travel the world. Wagner began her gap year volunteering at a school for children with mental and physical disabilities in Kenya and then backpacked around Eastern Africa.

"I decided to take a year off before college to gain some out-of-the-classroom life experience. I wanted to try new things and step out of my comfort zone to learn more about other people and cultures around the world," Wagner

stated in a Facebook interview.

Currently, Wagner is in Argentina learning Spanish and getting her bartender certification. (The drinking age in Argentina is 18). Wagner plans to continue traveling through South America for the remainder of her gap year.

"It has been extremely beneficial in terms of life experience. I've been challenged with language barriers, culture shock, missed buses and getting lost in foreign countries, but in the end it's all helped me learn more about myself and grow as a person," said Wagner.

Senior I'Jaaz Abdul-Hakim plans to take a gap year and travel to different countries with programs that work on helping preserve the environment and wildlife.

"I need some time to find out what it is I am passionate about and what I want to pursue in life. I feel that in the last few years I haven't met my potential. It's like driving a car that clearly has mechanical problems. You don't keep driving it; you pull over and find out how you can fix the problem," he said.

Abdul-Hakim is confident that the less-traveled route will lead to success.

He said, "There are so many ways to make money and develop a profession. I think that it will give me a better view of what I want to do so therefore I will have a developed idea of what I want to pursue."

By  
the  
#s

The Power of Going,  
Not Going to College

**50-70**

Students admitted to Harvard defer for gap year annually

**1.2%**

Students in 2011 nationwide deferred to take a gap year

**60%**

Gap year students reported ease in defining academic majors.

**8.4 %**

Unemployment rate among those with only a high school degree, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics

**6.9 %**

Unemployment rate among people with some formal college education, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics

**3.8 %**

Unemployment rate for people with a bachelor's degree or higher, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics

**\$450 thousand**

More people with college degrees can expect to earn than those with only a high school education, according to Brookings Institution study conducted in 2010



ALEX WAGNER

**Taken in Kenya**, a woman and her son who belong to the Maasai tribe. Wagner had the opportunity to visit and volunteer with the Maasai people in rural Kenya in September, 2012. "I learned about their culture. The beaded jewelry that the woman is wearing is very common among Maasai men and women," she said. Wagner is now Argentina, and plans to continue traveling through South America for the remainder of her gap year.



ALEX WAGNER

**Taken in the Kibera slum** outside of Nairobi, the largest slum in Africa, this picture shows Wagner walking hand in hand with one of the boys from the primary school. Wagner taught at the school in the slum and often walked home with the children. "The children were always eager to hold hands, take photos, and play with all of the volunteers," she said.



# Shiloh Hit the Shaker Ground Running

BRIDGET COOK SPOTLIGHT EDITOR

Shaker Senior Didi Shiloh joins Shaker scene late, but doesn't let it stop her from taking a number of clubs and activities by storm

**B**y mid-March, many second semester seniors have serious cases of senioritis, cruising through the home stretch of their high school careers as they prepare to head off to college.

Senior Didi Shiloh, however, is far from checking out as she approaches graduation.

"I'm president of the GSA, president of Project Support, which works with disabled students at the high school, a SGORR leader, and a member of Write On for Israel," said Shiloh as she counted off the activities one by one on her fingers. "As well as a member of Jumpstart, an LGBT leadership group, and the Student Safe Advocacy Senate. Oh, and New Stages! Am I forgetting anything? I'd feel awful!"

Judging from her lengthy resume and community involvement, you might think Didi had attended Shaker schools all her life, but that's not the case. Joining the Raider student body as a sophomore, Didi has since made her mark on the community through her ever-growing list of meaningful clubs and activities, especially in her work as president of the Shaker GSA. "I'm really trying to bring in a well-rounded curriculum to GSA," said Didi, who estimates that the GSA has 12 to 15 regular members, a number up from last year's membership.

Didi's efforts have brought diverse speakers to GSA meetings this year. Shaker GSA alumni have spoken about their transition to college. Shiloh's girlfriend and Strongsville GSA leader Savannah Sherman told members about her efforts to persuade Strongsville schools to drop Chick-Fil-A fundraising activities because of the company's stance on marriage rights. The singer /manager duo Diana Chitester and Jessica Rosenblatt shared insights about their lives in the music business.

Despite this success, Didi still sees room for the GSA to grow. "We have very few allies," she said. "My goal aside from outreach is to increase education, because the downfall of the LGBT community is ignorance."

Shiloh is already laying down groundwork for her successor. "I'm setting out calendars for next year already," explained Shiloh.

Didi did not always live in a diverse community such as Shaker Heights. Her older sister met opposition when trying to start a GSA comprising four members at West Geauga High School. "West Geauga is primarily white, conservative Christian, so there's pretty much no open mindedness," she said. "My parents raised me super liberal, so I fit right in at Shaker."



Senior Didi Shiloh sits with a representative of Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays Mar 7 in the Upper Cafeteria. Shiloh organized the PFLAG meeting as part of a series of speakers she hopes will expand the club's curriculum.



ANDREW BOYLE/THE SHAKERITE

Didi's work as president of Project Support, a club that meets once a month to bring activities and interactions for Shaker students in special education, has also been a success. "Didi's been phenomenal," said special education teacher and Project Support adviser Jessica Wilkes. "Didi actually came up with most of the ideas for our activities this year. We've done a dance party and watched movies, and [the students] love the interaction with people."

With such a widespread spectrum of interests and activities, it's natural to wonder how Didi is able to manage her time. "I totally believe in productivity coming from activity. I have a million and a half things I'm doing, and I have to juggle it all, but I can do it," she said. "I would say I haven't wasted a single drop of time lately."

After high school, Didi hopes to study neuropsychology combined with gender research. Her LGBT activism will persist. She said, "It's fascinating to me and I'll never stop asking questions."

Didi speaks to the Shaker GSA in a meeting Mar 20, engaging members in a campaign to write letters to Congress advocating legislation to stop bullying in schools. Didi has been able to integrate her experiences in SGORR and CORE to her GSA leadership tactics. "Sometimes I bring in SGORR activities and make it GSA-related," said Shiloh. "As a CORE member, you have to be so organized and so on top of it. It sets up a way for you to connect with people around you."



Where do you see Didi in 20 years?

Spotlight asked those who know Didi best to predict what's ahead for her in life.



"I see Didi creating her own activist organization." Whitney Tyrwe GSA member



"I think Didi will be a professor and an academic." Halle Bauer SGORR adviser



"Whatever she does, I can pretty much guarantee she'll be successful at it." Jessica Wilkes Project Support adviser



"I think she will be loved by all and basically the best person in the world." Davionne Gooden GSA Member



"Mrs. Frerichs has in every way been there for us, so it is only fair, and right, to be there for her too."

RYAN LAMONICA



"It was nice to see that other people besides the players and coaches showed as much love and dedication for our program and what we do."

ERIC STERIN



"Involving one of our biggest supporters directly, by showing up at her house and presenting her with the trophy has made this much more of a community triumph than the success of a handful of high school athletes."

RYAN LAMONICA



"Seeing her with the trophy and seeing how happy she was made the whole championship experience that much better."

JACOB SHICK

#### Junior defenseman Max

Yauch checks a Northview player for the glass during the state championship game March 9 at Nationwide Arena in Columbus. Shaker defeated Sylvan a Northview, the defending state champions 3-1. Though hockey players are generally stereotyped as being on the ice, they showed a different side of themselves. Carol Frerichs with the championship trophy. I think it brings out the other and softer side of all of us. It really touched me. I was touched when we all went to present her the trophy. It really made my day. Sophomore defenseman Jordan Davenport said.



## Hockey Shares Title With Biggest Fan

After winning the state championship, the hockey team brought their trophy to long-time fan Carol Frerichs, who was unable to attend the game.

ALLIE HARRIS SPOTLIGHT EDITOR

**D**espite returning to Shaker at around 3 a.m. after the championship game, the hockey team organized a visit to a long-time fan the next day.

The team brought their trophy to Carol and Don Frerichs's house March 10. "Nobody would appreciate the state title as much as her," senior Captain Jacob Shick said.

Mrs. Frerichs has been a fan of Shaker hockey for more than 20 years. Frerichs' sons, Brian ('86) and Scott ('91), both played hockey for Shaker, and Scott was a member of the 1991 state championship team.

"My wife and I both hang around the rink," said Don Frerichs, Mrs. Frerichs's husband, who has been the organist at Thornton Park for about 25 years. The Frerichs' have attended the majority of Shaker hockey games, both home and away, for years.

"On our way onto the ice, she gives us a high five, and after each game, a hug," Shick said. "It's been this way as long as anyone can remember."

Mrs. Frerichs was recently diagnosed with



Senior goalie Eric Sterin kisses the trophy after the state championship game March 9 at Nationwide Arena. Sterin had nine shutouts this season and allowed 51 goals.

cancer and wasn't able to attend very many games this season, including the state championship March 9 in Columbus. "I told them I maybe wouldn't be able to go to too many games, or maybe I would, but I'd be there in spirit and they were there with me," Mrs. Frerichs said. "The kids have just been wonderful as far as supportive."

The team didn't doubt the idea to visit Mrs. Frerichs. "Everyone knew it was the right thing to do. After all, for years she has given up her time to watch us play. The least we could do was spend 20 minutes enjoying the championship with her," Shick said.

Mrs. Frerichs described feeling "absolutely amazed" by the team's effort to bring her the trophy. "It was a surprise. They let me hold it, they took my picture with it, but unfortunately, I couldn't keep it. It had to go back to the school."

Mr. Frerichs was touched by the experience as well. "It was very humbling because here was a group of 22 young lads who thought it was important enough to do this. . . it was pretty close to bringing a tear to the eye," he said.

Head Coach Michael Bartley thinks the team's act of kindness mirrors his players' personalities. "Hockey is an aggressive sport, but these athletes play with sportsmanship and respect, which is a reflection of their character away from the rink," he said.

Junior defenseman Ryan LaMonica said he will remember every part of his championship experience, "especially Mrs. Frerichs who has supported us every step of the way, even through her illness," he said. "She will always be in our hearts."

Shick will also remember Mrs. Frerichs when he reflects on this season. "I think we will be glad we were able to share it with Shaker's biggest sports fan in history," Shick said.

Mrs. Frerichs thinks the team's actions prove that "if you're supportive of a youth, they will support your back."



# OHSAA Voting to Split Public, Private

PUBLIC SCHOOLS VS PRIVATE SCHOOLS

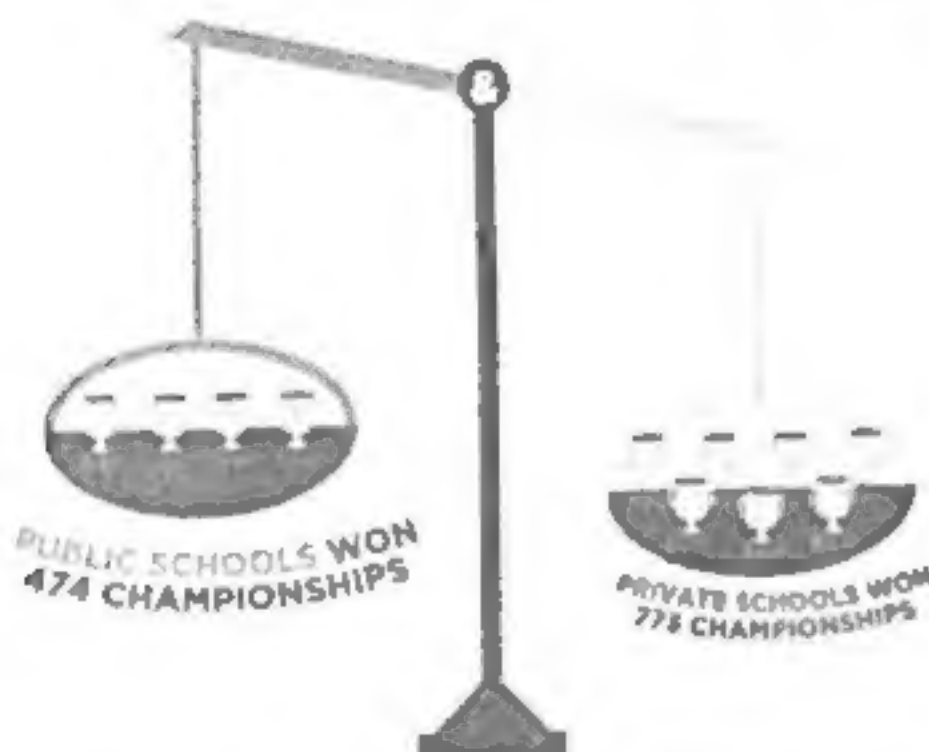
OHSAA state championships have been dominated by private schools.

HERE'S THE BREAKDOWN:

OF THE 562 THAT HAVE WON O SCHOOLS STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS,



AND OUT OF 1 2 4 7 STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS,

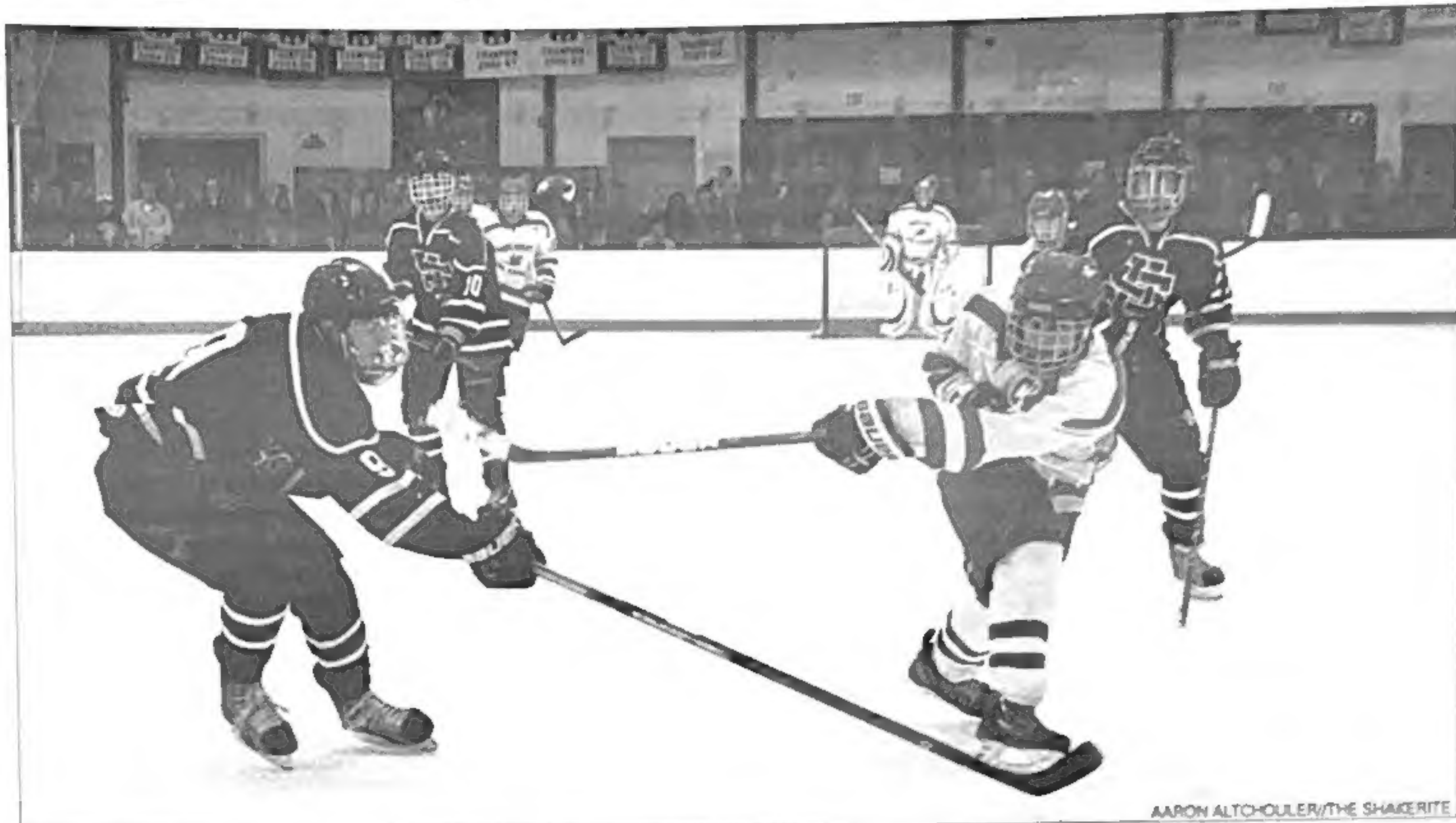


ALSO A SURVEY OF SHAKER ATHLETES,

80% of students surveyed DO NOT want to split public and private schools in OHSAA playoff competition.

20% of students surveyed DO want to split public and private schools in OHSAA playoff competition.

JOSH JACOBS/THE SHAKERITE



AARON ALTCHOUER/THE SHAKERITE

Senior John Longman takes a shot against University School December 7 Shaker won 4-1, and to beat US again in the district final to advance to the state final four. If OHSAA members vote to pass a referendum to split public and private schools, Shaker may no longer play US in playoff competition.

## To settle the competitive divide, schools vote to split public, private

ARI ROSS RAIDER ZONE EDITOR

**S**haker's days of playing St. Ignatius, Hathaway Brown and other private schools in state tournaments may be over.

In May, Ohio High School Athletic Association member schools will vote on a referendum to create a split between public and private schools in high school athletics. The split would divide public and private schools into separate state playoff brackets.

This same proposal was defeated in 1978 and again in 1994. However, with private schools, which make up about 17 percent of Ohio schools, having won about 44 percent of the state championships over the past 10 years, this issue has emerged once again. "In the past seven to eight years, it has become another hot topic," said Tim Stried, OHSAA director of information services.

Private schools can recruit widely, and many of their athletes have more opportunities such as camps, Stried said.

Plain Dealer reporter Tim Warsinskey agreed. "They have the opportunity to attract the best student athletes," he said.

However, private school tuition creates a financial barrier. According to St. Ignatius Athletic Director Rory Fitzpatrick, private schools cannot give athletic scholarships.

The OHSAA is not alone. In February 2012, the Georgia High School Association divided private and public schools in postseason competition for cross country, softball, football, basketball, baseball and track and field.

The split created some difficulties for the

GHSA. "Administration of sports is more difficult when we split public and private schools," GHSA Executive Director Ralph Swearngin said. Swearngin said the GHSA had to create a power rating system. "Just like with the BCS polls, there are arguments," Swearngin said.

However, with a split, public schools will not suffer defeat after defeat by private school teams loaded with talent. "It's never any fun to get beat by an all-star team," said Triway Superintendent Dave Rice, who proposed the referendum to the OHSAA "because the past two referendums failed, and the OHSAA said they were done working on the problem."

"They have a legitimate point," Warsinskey said. "They are attempting to find a solution that makes [high school athletics] fair."

The OHSAA opposes the referendum. "We don't think this is the solution," Stried said.

Fitzpatrick agreed. "I don't think the split is good for Ohio high school athletics," he said. The split "negatively impacts what anybody's doing at the high school level," and creates negative consequences, he said.

However, Principal Michael Griffith is leaning toward voting for the split. "They should have been split long ago," said Griffith, who comes from California, where public and private schools compete separately.

The referendum vote will take place between May 1 and May 15, and results will be announced May 16.

Much resistance to the split is rooted in desire for competition. "Kids like the challenge," Readance said, noting that Shaker has many strong rivalries with private schools.

Senior volleyball player Savannah McCarthy agreed. "If the best are private schools, then so be it," She said, "To be the best you have to play the best."



Raider Zone Editor

Players want to confront the best competition. The OHSAA should preserve public schools' chance to prevail against dominant programs. They'll gain experience, and victories will be more meaningful.

This year, Shaker beat St. Ignatius in basketball, and Rocky River beat St. Ignatius in hockey. Three of the four women's basketball teams to reach the DI final four were public. Other public schools can take down the privates, too.

Don't split public and private schools for the sake of state championships. There's a solution to the competitive divide, but it isn't separation.





SHANE MCKEON/THE SHAKERITE

A high school student helps an elementary school student with her math homework. Take Action goes to elementary schools weekly and tutors struggling students after school. "The most rewarding part of Take Action is knowing that I made a difference. Whether it's spending time with them or teaching them or showing them that they have a friend," senior Take Action Co-president Juliet Bellin-Warren said.

## Finding The Balance For 'Overclubbers'

MARCIA BROWN AND SHANE MCKEON INVESTIGATIONS EDITORS

**A**pplying to college? Join the club. Or join all of them. For students deeply entrenched in the ever-more competitive college application process, clubs are playing an increasingly important role in their efforts to set themselves apart from their peers.

"There's a difference between a car and a Lexus. Both will get you there, but one will turn heads on the way," Assistant Principal Eric Hutchinson said. According to Hutchinson, a high school transcript is bland without a bundle of clubs and activities to supplement it. The "Lexus" application, as dubbed by Hutchinson, is much more attractive to college admissions officers. As clubs become a staple for college applicants, the demand for variety is higher, and students involve themselves more deeply in the things that matter to them—but also so they can highlight achievements for their resume.

Clubs are part of the authentic high school experience, but they haven't always been as bountiful. "The number of clubs has definitely grown over the years since I was [a student at] Shaker 30 years ago," counselor Eric Peterjohn said. "For example YEH and SGORR were only founded after I left."

Only 16 clubs were represented in 1977 Gristmill compared to a rough list of 61 clubs provided by the high school office in 2013.

Throughout students' four years, people pressure them to join this club and that—often until students' schedules are crammed with too many clubs and they become what Guidance Department Chairwoman Eileen Blattner calls "overclubbers."

Counselors don't advise this much participation, however. "Some students try to do too much for colleges, and it probably doesn't help them as much as they think," Peterjohn said. "They want to see some commitment over four years, not just a laundry list."

Some students take such counselor advice to heart. "I thought it would be fun,

and through this club I can pursue something I really wanted to do, like spend time with animals," sophomore Cherie Lo said. Lo, who is also 2015 class president, founded a club this year called Protecting Animal Welfare Society for helping animals.

As competition among college applicants becomes more heated, students' resumes are distended with extracurricular activities. But leadership is what colleges look for. "If you're really involved, colleges know you can't do a gazillion things," Blattner said.

Unfortunately, students often join a club more for college credit than for merit reasons. "I think people definitely do [join for college], which I have mixed feelings about," Green Club President Isabel Robertson said. "It's great that people join, but I wish they actually had strong feelings about the club."

For some students, such as junior Luke Weinberg, a club can inspire further interest or involvement in an issue or activity.

"I thought it would help me get into college, but when I went to SGORR meetings, I figured out the cause was something I could really stand for," he said. "So when the opportunity came to try out for Core, I went for it."

Weinberg sees SGORR's influence on his outlook on life as the best asset for college applications. "If not the label of SGORR that I put on my application, it'll be the college essay that I write on how SGORR has changed my life," Weinberg said. That's what's going to get me in, not the label. People talk too much about the label. It's what you make of



ANDREW BOYLE/THE SHAKERITE

Art Club plans to paint a dinosaur for display at the Cleveland Metroparks Zoo



# Clubs May Take Backseat To New Trends

MARCIA BROWN AND SHANE MCKEON INVESTIGATIONS EDITORS

**A**ccording to Assistant Principal Eric Hutchinson, fewer students may "overclub" these days.

Hutchinson believes that so many new things vie for students' attention today that traditional pursuits such as club participation are waning. This year Hutchinson has only seen two applications for new clubs returned to him for Student Council's approval. According to Hutchinson, this is unusual, and he thinks it may be due to these distractions, such as social media, or to increased detachment from school.

Hutchinson believes it is different now than it was for this generation's parents and their parents—it's generational and societal. "Your generation has so many more distractions now and it has led to a lack of interest in clubs, I think," Hutchinson said. "Kids are into things they shouldn't be."

Although some club members don't have as much enthusiasm for the Green Club's environmental efforts, Green Club president Isabel Robertson still harbors hope for Cleveland's environmental future. "I hope that after [the leadership] leave, they continue to look everywhere for opportunities...and they aren't afraid to find [environmental] things to go to."

Cherie Lo, 2015 Student Council president, said taking part in council helped her

grow as a person. "I was more introverted and now I have better people relations," she said.

Although these students exemplify the benefits of clubs, not all students are involved. "There is a growing number of young people who walk these halls and those across the country that are not involved in those things that would help make them better individuals," Hutchinson said.

Right now, "it is uncool to wear school colors, or to hang out after school," according to Hutchinson. He wants kids involved in something such as a club, something with a "selfless intention."

Hutchinson believes that the school and its adults should encourage more involvement from students.

"What is cool? What would make our young people return [to the school]?" Hutchinson wonders. He reminisces about when he was in high school, and the love and loyalty kids had for their school through extracurriculars. That involvement helps kids form positive relationships with peers and adults. "Those relationships were the driving force."

Clubs may not be as central to students' lives as they once were, but Hutchinson thinks involvement is still crucial. He also believes the blame for detachment is shared.

He said, "Young people get away with what adults allow them to."



**Juniors Marc Reis and Shaunak Roy** work on a ramp during a Science Olympiad meeting March 19. Science Olympiad participates in scientific competitions with other local high schools. After success at February's regional competition, the club became one of six teams to advance to the State Science Olympiad Tournament, which will take place at the Ohio State University on April 27. Assistant Principal Eric Hutchinson is concerned that scenes like this are becoming less common. "Many of today's young people have fallen in love with the motifs: 'it's cool not to care' or 'I don't give a f---,'" he said.



**Seniors I'Jazz Abdul-Hakim and Andrew Taylor**

Shout view an activity in the SGORR office. SGORR tackles social issues in the high school and lower schools by forming groups of high school students who participate in weekly meetings, culminating in visits to elementary schools. "I'm affecting other leaders that will be affecting sixth graders and fourth graders," sophomore SGORR leader Louie Seguin said. "It's very rewarding to teach lessons to my group and then see them teaching what I taught them to the kids."



# Men's Basketball Reaches Regional Final

Superb season in the NOC stopped short by regional final loss to Mentor

ARI ROSS RAIDER ZONE EDITOR

**T**he men's basketball team finished the season 21-7, losing to Mentor in the regional final March 16 at Cleveland State University's Wolstein Center.

Shaker won the Northeast Ohio Conference Valley Division, going 8-2 in division play.

"I thought we had a great run," said Young. "I would say the hard work paid off."

The Raiders ended the regular season on a five-game win streak and finished second behind St. Ignatius in the final Plain Dealer high school men's basketball poll.

Shaker, seeded third in the Solon district, beat John Adams 63-54 and Bedford 69-53 to advance to the district final. There, Shaker beat St. Ignatius 61-52 to win the district title for the second year in a row.

In the regional semifinal, Shaker, led by Ahmad's 19 points, beat North Royalton 54-52 to advance to the regional final, where the Raiders lost to Mentor, 76-56. Freshman Keith Griffin did not play due to a one-game suspension for breaking a team rule. It was the third meeting this season between the rivals. Shaker came from behind twice to defeat the Cardinals during the regular season.

Ahmad was also named to the All-Ohio division I second team. Senior Kash Blackwell earned a special mention, and junior Rosel Hurley earned honorable mention on the All-Ohio division I men's basketball team.

Shaker graduates three seniors, but next year, Young still expects to improve. He hopes the team will improve their discipline, accountability, strength and conditioning, but also improve in the classroom.

"Shaker has talent; we always have someone else who is ready to accept the baton," he said. "We have players that are ready to take us to the next level."



WILL MCKNIGHT/THE SHAKERITE

**Sophomore Esa Ahmad** lays the ball in against Mentor in the regional final March 16 at the Wolstein Center. Ahmad scored 13 points but Shaker lost to Mentor 76-56. The Raiders finished the season 21-7, and 8-2 in the Northeast Ohio Conference. Ahmad was named the NOC Valley Division Player of the Year and Coach Danny Young was named NOC Coach of the Year in the Raiders first year in the NOC.



**Junior Rosel Hurley** drives to the hoop against North Royalton in the regional semifinal March 13 at the Wolstein Center. Shaker won, 54-52, thanks in part to a clutch three-pointer and free throws by Hurley, who had 14 points. The Raiders advanced to the regional semifinal.

**Senior Kash Blackwell** goes up for a layup against Bedford in the district semifinal March 7 at Solon High School. Blackwell scored 14 points in the Raiders' 69-53 win. Shaker advanced to the district final on March 9 where they beat St. Ignatius 61-52 and won the district title.

